

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [026] with the following:

Figure 7 shows a comparative cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 6) and amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1) of murine VEGF_{205*} isoform. The highlighted area shows the signal sequence of 78 nucleotides and 26 amino acids. The entire sequence of VEGF is 171 amino acids -- the signal sequence of 26 amino acids is cleaved from the mature VEGF_{205*} polypeptide. The presence of the stop codon TAA results in a truncated protein of 145 amino acids. Numbering of the nucleotide and amino acid sequence for murine VEGF_{205*} is shown.